

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 31, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-5 and 7 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Claims 1-5 and 7 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the references included in the International Search report were not considered since they were not included in any information disclosure statement (IDS). Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing this out and will file an IDS with the X and Y references listed in the International Search report, namely, FR 2821540 and

US 6,473,934.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the oath or declaration is defective and required a new oath or declaration, since 37 CFR 1.56(a) is referred to instead of 37 CFR 1.56. A new oath or declaration is being obtained and will be filed upon receipt.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings because of S_{F1} in FIG 6 should be F_{S1} . In response, FIG 6 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. A replacement sheet including FIG 6 is enclosed. Applicants respectfully request approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes and withdrawal of the drawing objection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract for including legal phraseology. In response, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

In the Office Action, the Examiner suggested adding headings to the specification. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's suggestion, however respectfully decline to add the headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP

§608.01(a), and could be inappropriately used in interpreting the specification.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 7 for a certain informality. In response, claim 7 has been amended for non-statutory reasons to remove the informality noted by the Examiner's. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 5, 12 and 17 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claims 1-2 and 6 have been amended to remove the alleged informalities noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-2 and 6 has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 6 contains patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the features of allowable claim 6 without including certain features

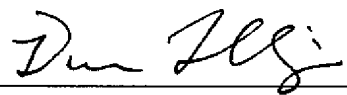
that are believed to be not necessary for patentability, where claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice. In addition, new claim independent 8 has been added that include features similar to the allowable claim 6.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 7-8 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-5 and 9-11 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 8 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 6)
New Abstract

THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101